

## Defense Mechanism of Miranda Priestly in Lauren Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada*

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### Abstrak

Menurut Sigmund Freud, kecemasan adalah perasaan tidak menyenangkan yang di jauhi oleh orang pada umumnya. Kecemasan terjadi ketika ego tidak dapat menangani segala macam bentuk keinginan yang muncul dari id, yang terbatas dan terkait dengan nilai moral dan hukuman social. Kecemasan bekerja sebagai sinyal untuk ego bahwa tengah terjadi hal yang tidak beres atau suatu keadaan bahaya yang akan terjadi. Kemudian, dibutuhkan suatu bentuk tindakan untuk mengurangi dan mempertahankan diri kita dari ancaman atas perasaan yang tidak diinginkan yang mengancam kita dan tindakan tersebut dikenal sebagai mekanisme pertahanan. Aspek psikologi ini adalah bentuk yang akan diidentifikasi dalam fiksi social yang berjudul *The Devil Wears Prada* oleh Lauren Weisberger (2003). *The Devil Wears Prada* adalah data primer yang akan dialisis dalam penelitian sastra ini.

Dalam penelitian ini, penelitian akan terfokus pada karakter Miranda Priestly. Melalui analisa deskriptif dan kualitatif, akan didapatkan informasi tentang masalah-masalah terutama tentang kecemasan dan mekanisme pertahanan yang Miranda alami. Dengan teori Sigmund Freud, dengan jelas akan dapat menggambarkan apa yang benar-benar menjadi masalah Miranda dan latar belakang tentang peristiwa masa lalu yang juga melibatkan beberapa aktifitas yang dilakukan Miranda untuk mempertahankan dirinya, seperti intelektualisasi, bertindak, penolakan, dan proyeksi.

**Kata Kunci:** Mekanisme pertahan, intelektualisasi, bertindak, penolakan, dan proyeksi.

### Abstract

According to Sigmund Freud, anxiety is unpleasant state of mind that people try to avoid. Anxiety happens when ego cannot deal with any form of desire rise by id, which limited and related to moral value and social punishments. Anxiety works as a signal to the ego that things are not going right or something danger will happen. Then, it is needed a form of action to decrease and defense our self of being frighten over the unpleasant feeling who threatening us and it is known as defense mechanisms. This psychological aspect is a form that would be identified in a social fiction entitled *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger (2003). *The Devil Wears Prada* is the primary data that would be analyzed in this literary research.

In this research, Miranda Priestly as the focus character to be researched. Through the descriptive and qualitative analysis, would be expects the information about her problems especially about anxiety and defense mechanisms that she experienced. By Sigmund Freud theory, clearly can be described what really is Miranda problems and background in past events and to reveals her anxieties and some action that she performed to defense herself, such as intellectualization, acting out, denial, and projection.

**Keywords:** Defense Mechanism, Intellectualization, acting out, denial, and projection.

### INTRODUCTION

According to Freud (1894), defense mechanism is mechanism of mental process provide the mind to manage solutions in order to deal and solve matters arise of any undesirable feeling that unable to resolve. As a psychological process, defense mechanism plays in unconscious and conscious where the mental process is taken place. In Freud's model, conscious and

unconscious is described in iceberg model – conscious mind takes place one third people mind while the rest is the unconscious, lies beneath the surface and left unspoken, undiscovered and shapes attitude and people conscious minds. Tyson states that unconscious is “the storehouse of those painful experiences and emotions and unresolved conflicts that people do not want to know about because we feel we will be overwhelmed by them”(2006:12). Those that are not finished in conscious

level are condensed in the unconscious level. This is the reason why it is important to dig into any person feelings in order to find the core issue, the corner stone of the repressed feeling stored in the unconscious.

From the background study above, two problems that emerge as significant concern toward this novel

1. What are the defense mechanisms performed by Miranda Priestly?
2. Why does Miranda Priestly perform those defense mechanisms?

### Objective of The Study

The objective of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the defense mechanisms performed by Miranda Priestly.
2. To explain why those defense mechanisms are performed by finding the core issues.

### Significance of The Study

The purpose of the study to learn about defense mechanism which is having many categorizes, especially through Miranda's ways to solve her problem even in extreme conditions of being anxiety of thoughts and feeling.

Above all, the importance of this study is to provide the readers with an inspiring portrayed by Miranda Priestly in how to act which well known as a strong and smart career women in struggling and pushing herself to survive in competition about the position which she wanted.

### Scope and Limitation

The subject of the study will focus on Miranda's characterization of *The Devil Wears Prada* movie. Even she is not the main character, anyway her roles give the big chance to the main character to develop the storyline. About the theory and the way to analyze, the writer is concerned about defense mechanism theories and classifications.

### Research Approach

This thesis uses qualitative research to analyze the topic. This research deal with literature also, then to analyze it, it takes the intrinsic and extrinsic approach. According to Rene Wellek and Austen Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (1956:73), intrinsic approach is an approach that focuses on the literature elements itself. It is such of plot, character, conflict, and the others. Then it can be concluded that the intrinsic approach is concerned about the data that comes from inside the literary work itself.

In this study, to uses intrinsic approach, the author use the close reading of the novel to get valid data and evidence to prove the statement that it is the true defense mechanism is performed by Miranda Priestly in Lauren

Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada* and give the reason why these figures perform defense mechanisms. The author will use a lot of data from the conversation and narration made by the main character, Andrea Sachs as the first character that tells all the story. This is because the data that is needed is not only from the scheme of conversations direct and indirect by Miranda Priestly, but also people conversation around her was describe about her character and also the narration that tells by Andrea Sachs in this hall story who really often makes a contact with Miranda because she is Miranda's personal assistant, then it can be takes the data about Miranda Priestly.

Extrinsic approach is the approach that focuses on other subjects of study. Then, this approach is used by analyses the main subject itself, here is the literary work by relating and connecting the main work to other fields, such of psychology, sociology, or other science, according to Rene Wellek and Austen Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (1956:73). To analyses the topic, the thesis which focuses to human psychology, applies a psychological approach to answering the statement of the problem that it is needed and relating to psychological approach about human behavior and mental process in the purpose to reveals why and how we do what we do.

### Previous Study

This study uses the previous study by Era Kartika Sari, a student of English Department, State University of Surabaya. The title of the thesis is "Sayuri's Defense Mechanism in Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of Geisha*". The thesis used psychological reading to analyze of the novel, *Memoirs of Geisha* written by Arthur Golden. The study aims to describe Sayuri's defense mechanism and to reveal the reasons the uses of defense mechanism in Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of geisha*. The thesis applies qualitative research which focused on the intensive interaction that connected to the topic that analyzed, intrinsic and extrinsic also used in analyzing the topic which known deals with literary works. As the result, Sayuri was identified performing 4 forms based on type of defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud. That are repression, suppression, rationalization, and acting out (Sari, 2013).

As the conclusion, the thesis of Era Kartika Sari shows the similarity of method in works and answering the statement of problems with this work entitled "Defense Mechanism of Miranda Priestly In Lauren Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada*". The study focused on proving that defense mechanism is true happened in *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger on Miranda Priestly plays.

## **Anxiety**

Anxiety can take form in many ways, however the cause of anxiety may be unknown. According to Gallagher and Harris (1976) the individual can lose concentration on doing something or going to the day dreaming if anxiety cannot be solved in unconscious level.

According to Freud (1977), anxiety is an unfriendly state of mind that people try to avoid. Anxiety acts as an indicator to the ego that things are not going right or something danger will happen. There are three types of anxiety:

1. Neurotic anxiety is concern to the Id. When the id of a person can get respond, his id will be pleased. However, if id's desire cannot be pleased because of against society, it makes the person will afraid of social punishment. It makes the ego deal with id to give another respond.
2. Objective or reality anxiety is a fear of real world events. It is usually happening in an environment which a person is in. This anxiety is easy to identify. For example, a person might be afraid of the dark. The most common way to solve is to avoid the room which is dark inside.
3. Moral anxiety involves a fear of breaking people moral rules. It occurs from the superego. A person is afraid of morality which is connected to the social norm.

## **Defense Mechanism**

Defense Mechanism apply to keep a human's self-esteem and helping them to get problem solving of any negative conditions. In addition, Krench (1996; 743) also maintains the characteristics of defense mechanisms. Firstly, defense mechanisms are adopted as a defense to self-esteem and also an offense to against anxiety. Secondly, defense mechanisms also have a negative and positive effect. The positive effect is, defense mechanisms help maintaining human self-esteem, but in the other hand, they work to 'avoid' the anxiety. In an extreme level, too much using defense mechanism can cause neurotic phenomena (769).

Thirdly, each defense mechanisms' device carries what called as self-deception. This means, anxiety that being avoided may appear again in other forms, needs or substitution. Fourthly, each device in defense mechanisms may overlap each other, and therefore analyzing defense mechanisms "should begin with a symmetrical analysis on the individual's needs" (1996; 769).

## **Levels of Mental Life**

Freud (1915) divides mental life into two levels, mainly conscious and unconscious.

## **1. Conscious**

Consciousness is the "awake" part of mental life, where the logics take part in making perceptions, feelings, thoughts, memories, and fantasies of what people have experienced at any particular moment. Conscious is the part of mental processing to commit with person daily lives in think and talk in a rational ways.

Closely related to the state of consciousness is preconscious. The preconscious mind is part of a process of the mind to deal with conventional memories and past events. This process is not conscious, however, it could become to conscious awareness of the moment. For example, when you were asked by your friends what is your sister's name, by preconscious you told your sister's name even you were not thinking about her.

## **2. Unconscious**

The unconscious is where the "painful experiences and emotions" are stored (Tyson, 2006;12). This is Freud's most radical thought and still governs classical psychoanalysis until today. All of the experiences that are not finished in conscious level are settled in the unconscious level. This is the very beginning of defense mechanisms. However, the unconscious is a dynamic entity that "engages us at the deepest level of our being" (Freud, as cited in Tyson, 2006;13). If person cannot acknowledge their selves the true cause of the repressed wounds, the repressions will keep happening.

Therefore, what happens in the conscious level will continue to the unconscious level. Analogically, conscious and unconscious can be sketched like an iceberg. Conscious, despite of its 'awakens', apparently only takes part one third of people mental level and the rest are managed by the unconscious. This is the reason why unconscious is considered as 'bigger' and more 'powerful' than conscious – and what cannot be solved in the conscious level will be condensed and may happen again when the trigger of the core issue comes up in the conscious level.

## **Provinces of the Mind**

Besides the mental life, Freud (1923) also writes about the structure of the mind. He divides into superego, ego and id. The superego is where "social values and taboos" internalized and the "sense of right and wrong" is shaped in here (Tyson, 2006;25). All of them are developing the



model of mental component that supplied a basic for the theory of Freud's psychoanalysis.

### 1. The Id

The Id is the part of unconscious, it is original as the instinctive personality of human that created by inborn biological that any time can urges looks out for instant satisfaction. The Id is symbolized by the devil sitting on your shoulder who told you to do all those things that he felt very pleased, even it is absolutely wrong by the norm of social life because the Id is hooked to pleasure such as sexual, sensual, selfish, libidinal erotic pleasure.

The example is when you are in a club and you see a really hot girl, at that moment by indirectly she got stir you in sexual feeling. The Id is ongoing to tell you to come closer to that girl, touch her softly by hugging her from behind. In fact, you did not do that because you know it is unacceptable behavior. However, the Id does not care about that, because it seeks what it want to be realized.

### 2. The Ego

The ego work as a mediator between irrational desires of the id and real world reality, because sometimes desire of the id is confused and really unreasonable. The jobs of the ego is to make a good plan to fulfill the pleasure of the id, however, it must be based on the moral values that exist in real life. The ego realized about the value, the norms, ethics, and regulations in taking a decision. This aimed to decide what you will do and avoiding guilt and punishment of society.

The ego also seeks gratification the same as id, but the ego avoids any feeling sinned and punishment from society by putting together a strategy of sensible to fulfill pleasure. The ego like a person who rides a horse which the person control great power of a horse (Freud, 1923;15). However, the overgrowth power of the id makes ego looked weak, so the best thing that can be conducted the ego is still appearing by give direction and purpose to id, then ego still has participated in what has been done by somebody.

### 3. The Superego

The superego is the justifier of personality who control the id's desire that containing any negative things such as sex and aggression. It is like the teacher who tells people what is right and wrong, good and bad, black and white. The superego is formed and contains the parental

firm demands about how to behave. Then, the superego as educates person like a child who must be directed.

The superego leads people away from society punishment. Therefore the superego gives people feelings of guilt when they give too much pleasure to the id, in fact, they had already know that it is not good. Through this guilt allows people to regret what just have done, then trying to fix it. After it was happening, the superego will treat people to learn how they must to be, the way they present their self and to behave in society.

## Types of Defense Mechanisms

Here they are some of defense mechanism types divide into 9 forms according to Sigmund Freud (1937) and the others mechanisms that has been found further by the other researcher psychoanalysis theories:

### 1. Denial

Denial is the oldest mechanism. It is known as one of the mechanisms that effective in reducing the anxiety that created from an unpleasant feeling caused by frightening situation. This mechanism serves to make the denial of the reality of a thought or feeling that hurts so that he seemed to deliberately force to ignore or forget the events that are not unpleasant for them. For example, someone who just breakup with their lover may deny that it is really happened or deny that they is upset because of that situation.

### 2. Repression

It is the way for the conscious blocking unwanted thought, feelings and impulse by forget it. The form of unpleasant feeling that tried to forget will repress, then stored in the unconscious. In short, the repress feeling will not completely solve and just hidden in unconscious level. The key of repression is unconscious, then sometimes people have a very weak control. Freud believed that memories cannot be forgotten if not repressing yet. However, if there is someone who is too often perform repression, then it will be possible to become disordered or neurosis. The example is a men who have an experience locked in cramped and dark room when he is a child, the experience will forgotten and stored in unconscious level would makes him traumatic to the cramped and dark room when he rise adult.

### 3. Displacement

It is the way of the people directing the thought, feelings and impulses known as threat form displace through safer object or replacement by another treatment, even though, they are not contributing to the unpleasant feeling which is, in fact, there are person or object out there is the real cause of the unpleasant feeling and annoyance. The example is a student who playing for his school football team and he's got not played by his coach because of some reasons, when he comes home, he kicks the door and do a lot exercise at gym to vent and spend his anger by do some activities. It is happening because he cannot express his feelings in a safe manner to the person they are directed at. Then, he is redirecting his anger to the house door and gym activity. This actually is not an effective defense mechanism, because any people put their anger to the wrong person or object and can lead to errors such of injuries and new problems.

#### **4. Reaction Formation**

This mechanism can be said a mechanism that is a bit odd. This mechanism occurs by showing unusual behavior through a different expression of feelings and thoughts when that time is perceived. The example is when someone has been met a bad things on the chaotic morning, but he hides his disappointment with the reaction shows as opposed to actual events by smile that actually shows imposed.

#### **5. Regression**

It's about the reversion to the nature of people current childhood. This mechanism works by conducting a childhood behavioral habits when people face of thoughts or events that cannot be accepted by the body consciousness as something unpleasant. For example, when a college girl has such of sad things like got bad exam results, because she is not able to accept the results, in the end she was cry like her childhood.

#### **6. Sublimation**

It is the way to channeling impulses, thoughts and emotions that cannot be accepted into something acceptable. For example, when someone has a negative sexual impulses, they will not act as he wanted at the time. However, they prefer to perform a rigorous exercise to refocus unacceptable impulses or even a painful urge to become a productive activity which

otherwise could cause more anxiety on the person.

#### **7. Rationalization**

It is the way how to put something different description of actual events in person's perception or behavior in order to change an unpleasant reality. For instance, a woman who dumped by her lover whom she loved for no obvious reason. Furthermore, she was rearranging her mind by insert something to use a reason that rational and can be acceptable, "I do not care if he want to break up, he is not a real men who I want to engaged with"

#### **8. Projection**

Projection is a defense mechanism that allow the impulse or an unpleasant feelings transferred to another person or people. In short, the anxiety is acted out or thrown to another people, then, the real person who feel anxiety feel relieved after transfer his anxiety to others. The example is when a twins boys play on the house yard, by incidentally the first twins was break the flower pot belonged to his mother. However the boy who break it says to his mother that his twins who broke it, it is make sense to him to transfer his anxiety to his twins, then, it will relieved his worried.

#### **9. Intellectualization**

This mechanism works by focusing on the way of thinking when it receives the pressure of problems that cannot be accepted, either the situation or behavior without the use of any form of emotion in order to help mediate and place the mind on the emotions that are not excessive. A person prefers to deal with intellectualization rather than a painful emotions to keep himself from excessive pressure as a result of an event or behavior. For instance, a father who has just been fired from his office, instead of expressing grief, he prefers to look for a new job that is better to be able to provide his family despite in fact that finding a job in the big city is very difficult.

#### **10. Suppression**

Suppression is known as an advanced and effective defense mechanism. This mechanism is correlated to denial and repression because have the similar process in the purpose to suppress an undesirable feelings like almost same how denial should works, however the suppression is happened through the conscious level purposefully to deal no more with the undesirable feelings. Differs with repression,

suppression works by the unpleasant feelings are changes with others form that do not contributed to frustration or another negative results by deliberately. For example when someone in the process of therapeutic was instructed to discontinue thinks about a miserable feelings by think about a lovely experience.

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#### 12. Acting Out

Acting out is the way performing extreme behaviors to express person's anger to something or someone that gives person an annoying experience. Physical samples by pinching or hitting their friends over something they do and make the person angry or feel unpleasant, or non-physical by throw and slam something that makes them angry such as books or cellphone. Acting out aims to vent the anger as to reduce the pressure on the psyche that can cause anxiety if not conducted. However, these mechanisms can cause injury to yourself and the recipient if the offender cannot hold emotion well.

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## ANALYSIS

### Miranda Defense Mechanisms in Lauren Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada*

This research is about the defense mechanism which is used to protect a person from the emotional tension who used by Miranda Priestly in this novel.

#### Miranda's Id

Here Miranda Id is created from her young life as a daughter of Jewish family and getting develop when she started her journey very early in magazine world. The story is begin when Andrea Sachs is work as Miranda's personal assistant. Miranda is known as the famous editor in chief at Runway magazine. And she have a long and a lot struggle in life story before she stand at her success now days.

...Miranda Priestly was born Miriam Princhek, in London's East End. Hers was like all the other orthodox Jewish families in the town, stunningly poor but devout. Her father occasionally worked odd jobs, but mostly they relied on the community for support since he spent most of his days studying Jewish texts. Her mother had died in childbirth with Miriam, and it washer mother who moved in and helped raise the children. And were there children! Eleven in all. Most of her brothers and sisters went on to work blue-collar jobs like their father, with little time to do anything but pray and work; a couple managed to get themselves into and through the university, only to marry young and begin having large families of their own. Miriam was the single exception to the family tradition. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003;28)

The narration above is really important part of the novel. Because that narration is the only source that telling about Miranda's childhood. The narration itself is long enough because it is about the whole story that tell about Miranda's history. From the narration above, Miranda has a life that is really not easy. She was born as Miriam Princhek in London's East End from an orthodox Jewish family. Her misery begins with the story of a poor family. His father was just a Jewish priest who earn a living from the help of the community. Biological mother died when she was a child and helped by a washer mother who help to rise the children, the eleven of his brothers followed his father as pastor and only a few are studying just to meet with her partner and has its own big family. Her misery more complete with the dropout of her high school when she was 17 years old, and she chose to start her very first career as assistant a British designer. Then, her id is identified as she really want to change her faith



and have better future to become a successful career woman. The inner conflict of Id and ego, increase when Miranda chose a very different path than her own family with a strong ambition to achieve success in her own way. Here, Miranda is identified using intellectualization by looking the best way to solve her anxiety of became a poor girl of stodgy family. In the sense of intellectualization, Miranda is focus to find a way to solve after get the difficulties of the problems that she cannot be accepted. Here, she has to deal with it without any form of emotion to keep her mind steady and avoid of any mind disorders that can be impact to her conscious and even unconscious level of her mental life. The strongest unconscious drive of Miranda to her desire by starting a new life in big ambition, then, she felt anxiety with her family background who just surrender to accept the condition and what will happen next to their future fate.

### Miranda's Ego

Here Miranda' ego formed very solid, despite her id desire is got limitation to avoid norms and social punishment, it become more complex by her experience over 20 years work in world magazine. From her background as a girl from very poor family into a competent and respected women who have excellent performance as a leader of America Runway Magazine. Then her competence is build her own standardization and rules to behave and even tougher than ordinary social norms.

Since I'd never seen so much as a picture of Miranda Priestly, I was shocked to see how skinny she was. The hand she held out was small-boned, feminine, and soft. She had to turn her head upward to look me in the eye, although she did not stand to greet me. Her expertly dyed blond hair was pulled back in a chic knot, deliberately loose enough to look casual but still supremely neat, and while she did not smile, she did not appear particularly intimidating. She seemed rather gentle and somewhat shrunken behind her ominous black desk, and although she did not invite me to sit, I felt comfortable enough to claim one of the uncomfortable black chairs that faced her. And it was then I noticed: she was watching me intently, mentally noting my attempts at grace and propriety with what seemed like amusement. Condescending and awkward, yes, but not, I decided, particularly mean-spirited. She spoke first. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003;16)

The narration above is described every inch of Miranda through Andy's visual sense, about Miranda's

physique, how skinny she really is, her soft, and gentle hand's movement, about how she was observed someone really deeply. Her moves is very gently that shown from her black desk. The atmosphere of her room feels so calm and comfy include her gesture that makes Andy feel comfortable enough even in that time she feels like has been in interrogation by Miranda Priestly. From the narration above, it can be identified how Miranda is really looks by Andrea perspective. It is not possible that people will really easy to recognize Miranda Priestly as the editor in chief at Runway magazine. Miranda's ego begins when her personality and behavior metamorphosed from a Jewish girl changed to neatly life, very cautious and educated in behave after she became a part of the French Runway in his late twenties. Her career rapidly rising until she moved into place and the prestige position as editor-in-chief at American Runway.

"So, does your affinity for writing mean that you're not particularly interested in fashion?" She took a sip of sparkling liquid from a glass and set it down quietly. One quick glance at the glass showed that she was the kind of woman who could drink without leaving one of those disgusting lipstick marks. She would always have perfectly lined and filled-in lips regardless of the hour. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 17)

The data above shows that every movement made by Miranda shows the perfection of her transformation which is embedded unconsciously after decades work in world magazine, especially fashion. Her perfection that shows off a simple things like how the way she drink water from a glass without leaved any line of lipstick marks is described that her personality is absolutely perfect in the right side to perform. Then, from the narration, which is shows the simple thing perform very gently, it is easier to know that her attitude will be wiser in dealing with more serious problems. It is not possible that Miranda Priestly became the single most influential woman in the fashion industry, even more, one of the most famous magazine editors in the world because of her calmness in deal with any problems that comes up in her career.

Miranda has always inspired or even effected of her perfection to her employer or even random person who around her. Her power and prestige by indirectly will makes every person try to be as good as how Miranda threat them.

It was Friday—at seven o'clock in the goddamn morning—and they wanted me to start on Monday? It began to feel like everything was spiraling out of control. Why the ridiculous rush? Was this woman so important that she needed me so badly? And why exactly did

Sharon herself sound so scared of Miranda?  
(Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 20)

The narration above is describe Andy's curiosity of the people who work for Miranda. As a new comer in Elias Clark Building office where is Runway magazine take a place, she not really understand how much Miranda's charisma felt by people around the scope of her co-worker. Then, it is clearly looks that in Andy's first day work is become confusing why is other people who work for Miranda feels scared to face their manic Monday. In fact, Andy's Monday would feels like mystery that probably will spin without direction, then she cannot handle it, suddenly she messes up her very first day work in Runway. However, it is not about Monday, it is about facing Miranda Priestly. The big effect of working with Miranda is felt by Emily who have been in 2 years work as Miranda's junior assistant and today as the senior assistant for Miranda.

"Hey, welcome," she muttered, giving me my first official up-down look-over by someone other than the security guard. "Nice boots." My heart surged. Was she serious? Or sarcastic? Her tone made it impossible to tell. My arches ached already and my toes were jammed up against the front, but if I'd actually been complimented on an item of my outfit by a Runway-er, it might be worth the pain. Emily looked at me a moment longer and then swung her legs off the table, sighing dramatically. "Well, let's get to it. It's really lucky for you that she's not here," she said. "Not that she's not great, of course, because she is,"... (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 29)

The narration above is illustrates how Emily appearance at that time. She looks very fashionable like people who are very influenced by fashion and dressed properly as an assistant who working for Miranda Priestly. The way when she greet and pay attention to something, in that moment Andy is her object of her observation, really similar to what is done by Miranda when she first saw the figure of Andy, it such of more than a security guard performing their job in figured out a random person with intelligent become a serious things in order to recognize someone in very first meet. By her 2 years experience got "treat" by Miranda, Emily become influenced by 'Miranda impaction'. She got analyzing Andy as the new employer, such as how Miranda should to do. It is clearly shown how 'Miranda impaction' give impact to people around her.

Miranda called only once after Emily left to tell me that she wouldn't be in the office until noon tomorrow, but she'd like a copy of the restaurant review she'd read today "in the paper." I had the

presence of mind to ask if she recalled the name of the restaurant or the paper in which she read about it, but this annoyed her greatly.

"Ahn-dre-ah, I'm already late for the meet. Don't grill me. It was an Asian fusion restaurant and it was in today's paper. That's all." And with that, she snapped her Motorola V60 shut. I hoped, as I usually did when she cut me off midsentence, that one day the cell phone would simply clamp down on her perfectly manicured fingers and swallow them whole, taking special time to shred those flawless red nails. No luck yet. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 172)

The narration above is described a situation that Miranda gave orders to Andy to find a review about Asian restaurant in a newspaper today, but Miranda did not give a clear explanation of what kind of newspaper the reviews are listed that in fact there are many newspapers are sold in Manhattan at that time. Until the moment when Miranda needs the info how and where exactly the restaurant to meet an important person, Andy still cannot found a restaurant review that Miranda wanted. And this one is the examples how Miranda treats Andy to work as what she want. Miranda treats Andy to work perfectly without any mistake as how Miranda's superego control her id desire to fulfilled in perfect condition to avoid any unpleasing feeling that will treat her peace. Every Miranda request and orders feel demanding to all her employer, then, it makes them feel like forced by Miranda power to ensure her every request and orders can be fulfilled, then, it will give Miranda's id feel satisfied.

After a couple months working for Miranda, Andy got to know how Miranda's power to dominating every situation that related to Miranda. Every single situation can be take control by her either direct or even indirect.

"Ahn-dre-ah!" "Yes, Miranda?" I stopped in my tracks and turned to face her. "I expect the restaurant review I asked you for is on my desk?" "Um, well, actually, I've had a little trouble locating it. You see, I've spoken to all the papers and it seems none of them have run a review of an Asian fusion restaurant in the past few days. Do you, uh, happen to remember the name of the restaurant?" Without realizing it, I was holding my breath and bracing for the onslaught. It appeared my explanation held little interest for her, because she had resumed walking toward her office. "Ahn-dre-ah, I already told you that it was in thePost —is it really that difficult to find?" And with that, she was gone. ThePost ? I'd spoken to their restaurant reviewer just that morning and he had



sworn there were no reviews that fit my description—nothing noteworthy had opened that week whatsoever. She was cracking up, for sure, and I was the one who was going to get blamed. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 190)

The narration above is telling a story in which Miranda is questioned about a restaurant review that she needs and should have been on her desk, but Andy has not successful yet to find the review. In that situation, Andy tried to ask more clearly on what newspapers Miranda saw the review. But Miranda does not also give an explanation, however, Miranda just ask Andy competence in completing the tasks assigned to her. In fact, Andy has attempted concerned look for and ask several prominent newspapers in Manhattan, but the result is still nothing. Miranda purpose in demanding Andy is to avoid the feeling of unpleasant that will appears if her demands cannot fulfilled. In this case, Miranda's perfection to behave create a supervisory and norms that influence the performance of Andy to stay away from the sense of fail and guilt over the lack of incapacity in completing the task. From the narration above, it can be seen how Miranda takes control of every situation that contains a conflict of competition to approve who is the right one. Fortunately, Miranda always be the right one because she can dominate every situation by her power. Her perfection is form a solid personality that stands out on the social life. Then, she can survive from the threat of anxiety that attack her. Her control of every situation to make a wall that are difficult to be exceeded by a sparring partner who tries to threaten her composure.

“Oh, well, I, uh, I just wanted to let you know that if there’s, like, anything else I can do—or any of us here—feel free to call, you know? We love Miranda here, and we’d, like, uh, want to help with anything we could?” You would’ve thought that the First Lady of the United States of America had just asked Schizophrenic Editorial Girl if she might be able to locate an article for the president, an article that included information crucial to an imminent war, and not an unnamed review on an unnamed restaurant in an unnamed newspaper. The saddest part of all was that I wasn’t surprised: I knew she’d come around. “OK, I’ll be sure to pass that along. Thanks so much.” Emily looked up from preparing yet another expense account and said, “No luck there either?” “Nope. I have no idea what she’s talking about, and apparently, neither does anyone else in this city. I’ve spoken to someone at every Manhattan paper she reads, checked online, talked to archivists, food

writers, chefs. Not a single person can think of a suitable Asian fusion place that has so much as been open in the past week, never even mind one that’s been reviewed in the past twenty-four hours... So what now?” (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 183)

The narration above shows how respectful and loyal employees especially Emily to Miranda. Emily really loves Miranda. Miranda’s charisma give her employees a sense of responsibility towards their jobs. Because they do not want to disappointing and scolded Miranda, Andy must successful get a review of the restaurant that she wanted to satisfy her boss, Miranda. Andy has asked the entire newspaper in Manhattan that Miranda reads, online media, and almost all the people who work in the restaurant in Manhattan, but the answer is still nothing. Although Andy had to feel miserable, but she still tried to devote herself best to Miranda. Here is how Miranda power is shown even she is not around of her employer. Her perfection is become a standardization of her co-worker to work as what as Miranda wishes. By indirect, Miranda’s capacity is become a quality control to keep how her employer to behave and finish Miranda’s demanding order. Then it is not possible for people around Miranda to upgrade or even to imitate their personality to become as perfect as Miranda.

Once again, the thing which is makes Miranda figure is looks like have unlimited power is her demanding order. As the personal assistant for Miranda, Andy is often get demanding order which is sometimes containing a really personal about Miranda private life. It is such of take caring about Caroline and Cassidy, Miranda twin daughter, preparing Miranda’s car, even caring about Madeline, Miranda French bulldog puppy. And it is quite often to Miranda get mad because of Andy’s lack to caring what Miranda’s needs.

Miranda would leave eight to ten ambiguous messages for us between the hours of one and six in the morning. Things like, “Cassidy wants one of those nylon bags all the little girls are carrying. Order her one in the medium size and a color she’d like,” and “I’ll be needing the address and phone number of that antique store in the seventies, the one where I saw the vintage dresser.” As though we knew which nylon bags were all the rage among ten-year-olds or at which one of four hundred antique stores in the seventies—east or west, by the way. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003:97)

They tossed me the keys and only laughed when I’d asked them to back it out of the garage because I wasn’t sure I could handle a stick shift in reverse....

The chances of my making it to 76th and Fifth without seriously injuring myself, the car, a biker, a pedestrian, or another vehicle were nonexistent, and this new call did nothing to calm my nerves....

Cara laughed for what felt like ten minutes before she said, "Madelaine's their French bulldog puppy and she's at the vet."...

"You're joking. I have to pick up a fucking dog with this Porsche? Without crashing? It's never going to happen." (Lauren Weisberger, 2003:5)

The narration above illustrates how Emily and Andy job as personal assistant to Miranda. They must be ready any time to get the task of Miranda. Miranda always delivered the task via voice mail sometimes contains ambiguous and often also associated with the personal lives of her family. Such as filling the needs of the twins about the bag they were wanted and Andy must to pick a Cassidy's favorite color who honestly Andy have no idea about the taste Cassidy desire, and the address of an antique shop she saw when passing a road but not sure where a store really is, however Andy is always trying to understand what is wanted by Miranda although it is difficult to understand. In addition, there are more orders that require Andy to perform two tasks at once, such of taking a sports car that has been ordered by Miranda when Andy does not figure out how to driving it and might be dangers herself when drive it in the city. Then, the most confusing is when Miranda orders to pick up someone named Madelaine which is she is a French bulldog puppy belongs to the Miranda's family. According to Andy, it is very unreasonable and very harm for her to drive down to the city with dog who must she cares on.

### **Miranda's Superego**

In *The Devil Wears Prada*, Lauren Weisberger created Miranda's character as a powerful woman. Especially by her perfection, Miranda has her own standardization in behave. Even she have to force her employer to work perfectly. Her powerful character is shown when she created her demanding order to Andy, her personal assistant.

"Why the hell was I not informed that I'd be receiving some nonsense award at today's luncheon?" she hissed, her face contorting with a hatred I'd never seen before. Displeasure? Sure. Dissatisfaction? All the time. Annoyance, frustration, generalized unhappiness? Of course, every minute of every day. But I'd never seen her look so down right pissed off. "Um, Miranda, I'm so sorry, but it was actually Briget's office that RSVP'd you to the event today, and they never—"

"Stop speaking. Stop speaking this instant! All you ever offer me are excuses. You are my assistant, you are the person I designated to work things out in Paris, you are the one who should be keeping me abreast of these things." She was nearly shouting now. One of the makeup guys asked softly in English if we would like a moment alone, but Miranda ignored him entirely. "It's noon right now and I'll be needing to leave here in forty-five minutes. I expect a short, succinct, and articulate speech legibly typed and waiting in my room. If you cannot accomplish this, see yourself home. Permanently. That's all." (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 233)

The narration above shows how Miranda feelings when facing trouble in her life. Probably, it is not only Miranda but other people in general will also do the same thing as Miranda performed. Displeased, disturbed, frustration and unhappiness, but what distinguishes Miranda with other people is the effort to avoid and solve her anxieties. When found difficulty or anxiety, she will immediately find a way out no matter what to keep the peace of her mind. One of them by forcing her personal assistant to resolve the issue. As a personal assistant, it is a task that must be done by Andy, whenever and wherever she is, she must be ready to work on the task. Requests or orders given by Miranda always contain demanding orders to pressing on Andy to finish whatever Miranda demanded. In addition to providing demanding order, Miranda also provide firm calls upon request to Andy. In addition, she was also giving out the threat if her request cannot be fulfilled. However, Miranda's anxiety arise when her demanding order cannot be fulfilled. In that moment, her Id is cannot be satisfied.

"I cannot fucking pull a run-through together in thirty seconds, do you understand me? It's fucking impossible! Four of my five assistants aren't here, and the only one who is here is a complete fucking idiot. Andrea, what the fuck am I going to do?" She was hysterical, but there wasn't much room for negotiation. (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 226)

The narration above shows a situation where Miranda's demand cannot be fulfilled at the time she wanted. Then, the action she did was to do something in order to achieve what she wants. When she needed some assistants to perform a meeting, some assistants are still not attended yet on the spot. Because of her personality is strong, dominant, and does not want made to wait, she acted immediately. At this point, it have been identified that Miranda has conflict to fulfill her Id's desire, Miranda often found difficulties in giving orders to her employees. In such circumstances, Miranda feels anxiety and questioning the consistency and the ability of her employees over the imperfections. At the end of her patience in accepting the situation, Miranda is doing a form of defense mechanism to keep her mind from such of negative condition, like frustration upon her daily life of work. The form of defense mechanisms that she performed was acting out.

“Manhattan?” She looked confused and pissed off all at once. “Who said anything about Manhattan?” It was my time to be confused. “Ahn-dre-ah, I’ve told you at least five times now that the review was written about a new restaurant in Washington. Since I’ll be there next week, I need you to make a reservation.” She cocked her head and moved her lips into what can only be described as a wicked smile. “What exactly about this project do you find so challenging?” Washington? Five times she’d told me the restaurant was in Washington? I don’t think so. She was clearly losing her mind or just taking sadistic pleasure in watching me lose mine. But being the idiot she took me for, I again spoke without thinking...

“Ahn-dre-ah, as I’ve made clear a dozen times already, the review I’m looking for is in the Washington Post. You’ve heard of that little newspaper, right? Just like New York has the New York Times, Washington, D.C., has its own paper, too. See how that works?” (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 192)

The narration above tells the time, which Miranda argues with Andy about the Miranda’s explanation of her request to seek a review of the Asian restaurant that Miranda needs. According Miranda’s version, she was assuming that she has provided an explanation as much as 5 times to Andy that a newspaper which is making a review about the Asian restaurant who Miranda wants was printed in a newspaper that published in Washington. While, according to the story of Andy, Miranda never once mentioned that the newspaper which she means is published in Washington. This raises the debate to prove who is the most correct in this case. But in fact, Miranda never once mentioned Washington once did in explaining to Andy. In this situation, Miranda has a strong self-defense system, instead of admitting her guilt, Miranda challenged Andy to ask her ability in working on this issue. By standing on the truth, Andy still maintains that what she struggle with is true. However, with Miranda conviction argue with her own assumption that the important thing is Washington DC also has its own newspaper publications like what New York have the New York Times. Immediately with humility Andy chose to surrender.

“Ahn-dre-ah, we have a very serious problem here. You have a very serious problem. I just received a call from Mr. Tomlinson. It seems Annabelle brought it to his attention that the twins’ passports expired last week.” She stared at me, but all I could do was concentrate on not throwing up. “Oh, really?” was all I could manage, but that clearly wasn’t the right response. Her hand tightened around her bag and her eyes began to bulge with anger. “Oh, really?” she mimicked in a hyena-like howl. People were beginning to stare at us. “Oh, really? That’s all you have to say? ‘Oh, really?’” “No, uh, of course not, Miranda. I didn’t mean it like that. Is there something I can do to help?”

“Is there something I can do to help?” she mimicked again, this time in a whiny child’s voice. If she had been any other person on earth, I would have reached out and slapped her face. “You damn well better believe it, Ahn-dre-ah. Since you’re clearly unable to stay on top of these things in advance, you’ll need to figure out how to renew them in time for their flight tonight. I will not have my own daughters miss this party tomorrow night, do you understand me?” (Lauren Weisberger, 2003; 260)

The narration above describes the situation when Miranda really shows her self-defense to argue something leads to what she believes. The situation that occurs when Miranda heard that the passport of her twins has expired. After heard the news, Miranda feels anxious because she wanted her twins daughter came to her party in Paris. Without a lot of consideration, she was immediately told Andy to solve these problems by focusing on the matter to Andy as the mistaken is really fatal and performed by Andy intentionally that in fact Andy does not know anything about the occurrence of such cases. Impatiently, Miranda suppress Andy who in that moment Andy feel confusion about what she must to do because of the problems that Andy must struggle to solve in to extend a passport in a short time is impossible.

As discussed above, it exposes that Miranda uses intellectualization, acting out, denial, and projection to facing the truthful and moral anxiety. The following section aims to discuss why Miranda use defense mechanisms in Lauren Weisberger’s *The Devil Wears Prada*.

### **The Purpose on The Use of Defense Mechanisms by Miranda Priestly in Lauren Weisberger’s *The Devil Wears Prada***

The development of defense mechanism help Miranda to have satisfaction in many aspect. Defense mechanisms help the individual to find a way to solve the problems. In Miranda case, defense mechanisms is does not only help her in challenging situation or any conflict, but it also helps her reach her success over her maturity in the world fashion magazine as the most influential editor in chief.

### **Conclusion**

From the results of the entire analysis of this work written in chapter 3, there are conclusions are summarized from the statement of the problem. Based on some type of defense mechanisms according to Sigmund Freud, there are four types of defense mechanisms that identified performed by Miranda Priestly. That are intellectualization, acting out, denial and projection. Intellectualization become one of the most important defense mechanism in Miranda’s life, because intellectualization become early change that successfully transforms Miranda’s life from the girl of a Jewish poor family who transformed into a successful career woman in



the fashion world industry. Intellectualization is concept characterizations of Miranda about visionary people to think forward after received a form of difficult situation who at that moment met an objective or reality anxiety that threat her future which will make it left backwards as her old-fashioned family at the time. After deal with such of anxiety, she chose to focus and negotiate by mediated quietly to seek the best way to solve that disquiet after receiving a pressure to her consciousness that cannot be accepted rather than just silent and deal with painful emotion that can adversely impact to her unconscious level.

The reasons of the uses of defense mechanisms is also identified. There are two reasons that has been identified, that are anxiety and conflict. The first reasons is anxiety that causes problems and matters which forced Miranda to deal with any unpleasant feelings in the purpose avoiding frustrated and confused. In this case is when Miranda performed intellectualization and acting out to help her have a better future by reach her success and fulfill her id desire. Then conflict is become a second reasons, it plays a role in threat her self-defense. Here, denial and projection plays an important role in the purpose to control her feeling and emotion in challenging situation. The example is when she avoid to get blamed and defense her-self in tension. After all, she found the way to faced and protect her-self of any miserable moment that treat her mind in the purpose to stay in the top of her career.

### Suggestion

As the study is about psychoanalysis theory depicted in literary works, this study shows how to do it. The study hopes that people could determine the terms and factors which counted as psychoanalysis theory are and what the effects on the characters life are.

It is necessary to be able to analyze some literary works with their own perspective and understanding as it necessary to emerge objective and independent analysis to the subject. Using Sigmund Freud's theory as perspective, this study is still needed a lot of improvement in the future, such as more data and source to build better analysis. There are also a lot other theories that can be used to enrich analysis. In the end those improvement will create more critics and scientific outcome which is makes this study to be more reliable to be references in the future study.

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